

the head forming a high ridge close behind the eyes from under which the strikingly small, beady eyes peered out. In this condition the animals looked in all the world as though they were a pair of ruptured larvae of the Rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes* sp.). In general colouring they were a pale olive grey above and heavily mottled with deep brown and grey below; a brownish, black bordered band crossed the thigh, the middle of the leg, and a third a little way below the 'heel'. When the legs are drawn up the three bands appear confluent; similar bands crossed the forearm and the 'wrist'; a black, broken W-shaped marking was visible at the base of the skull, anterior to this are two black spots and another nearer the snout. The markings appear to be permanent and are still visible in preservation.

On dissection the two proved to be male and female. Except for size, and some paler patches behind the head and about the loins in the male, there did not appear any marked external differences between the sexes. The female measured 45 mm. from snout to vent, and the male 33 mm. An examination of the gonads indicated that the ovaries were slightly enlarged and the ova distinctly granular. The fat bodies were much enlarged and filled the greater part of the abdominal cavity. The testes of the male were still small, and like the female, the fat bodies were enlarged and occupied a considerable portion of the body cavity.

Be it coincidence or otherwise, this was the first time I found a pair, male and female, of this frog aestivating together. It is well-known that some other species of frogs collect and aestivate together in the same cavity.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,  
BOMBAY,  
20th March 1946.

C. McCANN.

#### 18.—THE DISTRIBUTION OF *RANA LEITHII* BOULENGER.

Judging from the fact that *R. leithii* was represented by a single specimen, the type, in the British Museum, Natural History, up to the time it was 'rediscovered' by me at Khandala (vide *Journ., B.N.H.S.*, xxxvi, p. 167) it would appear to be a rare species, but since then I have been able to record it from various other localities in the Bombay Presidency, viz. Gersoppa Falls, N. Kanara; Kanari Caves, Salsette Island; Lingmala Falls, near Mahableshwar; and recently I collected it at Matheran, the type locality.

In most of the above-mentioned localities the frogs were frequent, but at Matheran they were definitely *very common* at dusk after the thunder showers on the 10th and 11th June (1945). There were actually hundreds hopping about the roads, among the rocks of the boundary walls and among the fallen leaves. When I mentioned to my companion Mr. Manek Captain that the frogs appeared to me to be the 'rare' *R. leithii* he rightly had the laugh of me,

for *R. leithii* it was, and it was there in its hundreds, and so I must now substitute the word *common* for the word *rare*.

The Matheran specimens were in breeding condition.

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BOMBAY,

C. McCANN.

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19.—STRONG ODOUR EMITTED BY THE FUNGOID FROG  
(*RANA MALABARICA*).

In my articles on *Reptilia* and *Amphibia* I referred to *Rana malabarica* as the Fungoid Frog on account of the close resemblance of its colouring to one of the bark or wood attacking fungi. At the time when I gave it this name, I was not aware of its ability to enhance the camouflage by emitting a powerful fungoid odour. In most cases I had dealt with it in the open. When on a short visit to the Tansa Lake I found one of this species inhabiting the bathroom of the bungalow. I closed the doors of the room and tried to catch it. As soon as I chased it about I became aware of a strong fungus-like odour in the room: for a while I could not account for the smell. When I caught the animal the odour became stronger than ever, and so I immediately suspected the frog as the author of the scent. When I put it to my nose for confirmation, there remained no doubt. To make sure I asked my companions to verify my observations, they agreed that the frog did give out a strong smell.

The dorsal surface of *R. malabarica* is highly glandular; in this respect it is not the only species, and it will be interesting to know whether the other species are also capable of emitting an odour. In *R. malabarica* there appears to be little doubt that the odour coupled with its colouring and habits afford it protection from many a would-be enemy.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,

BOMBAY,

C. McCANN.

20th May 1946.

20.—A RECORD MAHSEER.

(With a plate)

I enclose a photograph of a Mahseer I caught in the upper regions of the Cubbany River on 22-3-1946:—

Weight: 120 pounds.

Length: 66½ inches.

Girth: 41½ inches.

Mouth diameter: 10 inches.